

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 24, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claim 32 has been canceled without prejudice and its features included in independent claims 1-2, 11-12, 16 and 18. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-8 and 10-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0054001 (Robinson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,698,020 (Zigmond). Further, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Robinson in view of Zigmond and an article entitled "An Agent-based Market Supporting Multiple Auction Protocols, Workshop on Agents for Electronic Commerce and Managing the Internet-Enabled Supply Chain," Third International Conference on AUTONOMOUS AGENTS (Agents '99) in Seattle, Washington (USA), May 1-5, 1999, p1-4 (Vetter). It is respectfully submitted

that claims 1-31 are patentable over Robinson, Zigmond and Vetter for at least the following reasons.

On page 10 of the Final Office Action, paragraphs [0030]-[0033] and [0109] of Robinson are cited to allegedly show uploading periodically information related to the winning bid stored in a vault to a billing agent, as recited in independent claims 1-2, 11-12, 16 and 18.

It is respectfully submitted that paragraphs [0030]-[0033] and [0109] of Robinson disclose sending winning bid information without any storage thereof in a vault. In particular, paragraphs [0030], lines 19-21 specifically recites:

whenever a bid is won, a record of the ad and bid amount (without any user-identification information) is sent via a TCP/IP socket connection to the server. (Emphasis added)

Further, paragraphs [0109], lines 1-4 specifically recites:

When a bid is accepted in the agent environment, in most embodiments a notice is immediately sent back to the agent environment vendor indicating which ad was shown.

Thus, Robinson merely discloses immediately sending winning bid information without any storage thereof in a vault. Further, any sent information in Robinson is sent to the vendor or server,

and NOT to a billing agent.

It is respectfully submitted that Robinson, Zigmond, and combination thereof, do not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claims 1-2, 11-12, 16 and 18, which requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

uploading periodically the information related to the winning bid stored in a vault to a billing agent.

Storing information related to the winning bid in a vault, and uploading periodically such stored information to a billing agent are nowhere taught or suggested in Robinson and Zigmond, alone or in combination. Vetter is cited in rejecting depending claim 9 to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Robinson and Zigmond.


Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1-2, 11-12, 16 and 18 be allowed. In addition, as claims 3-10, 13-15, 17 and 19-32 depend from independent claims 1-2 and 11-12, Applicants respectfully request that claims 3-10, 13-15, 17 and 19-31 also be allowed.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the

foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
June 23, 2008

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101